

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 053938
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053938

STADIS/////////////////
PASS DAS HEGINBOTHAM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OTRA, EAID, BM

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON AID TO BURMA

1. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE FEB 28 THAT
WE EXTEND A MODEST AMOUNT OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO BURMA
IF FEASIBLE. THIS DECISION WAS BASED ON THE BRIEFING
PAPER YOU SAW. AMBASSADOR BEAN HAS A COPY.

2. DEPUTY SECRETARY'S ACTION AND LETTER TO AID ADMINI-
STRATOR GILLIGAN IS DESCRIBED IN THIS WEEK'S WEEKLY NOTES.
THE LETTER CONCLUDES, "WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF AID
WOULD EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE
TO BURMA IN FUTURE YEARS IN A FORM AND AT A LEVEL COMPATIBLE
WITH OUR BROAD POLICY INTERESTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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OBJECTIVES. WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING A REQUEST FOR A
SUPPLEMENTAL AID APPROPRIATION."

3. AMBASSADOR BEAN CARRIES WITH HIM A MEMCON ON HIS DIS-
CUSSION OF AID POSSIBILITIES WITH ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
SULLIVAN AND HIS DEPUTY ADLER. (SULLIVAN PROMISED TO
DISPATCH TWO AID OFFICERS TO BURMA TO STUDY AID POSSIBILITIES

IN LATE MARCH OR EARLY APRIL.) AMBASSADOR ALSO HAS A MEMO ON HIS PL-480 DISCUSSION WITH AID/FFP DIRECTOR BITTERMAN.

4. YOU WILL NOTE THAT THE POLITICAL DECISION IN PRINCIPLE ON AID TO BURMA IS CONDITIONED BY ECONOMIC AND CONGRESSIONAL FACTORS. THE GUB SHOULD THUS NOT RPT NOT BE INFORMED OF USG DECISION. RATHER, YOUR VISIT SHOULD BE PLAYED AS CONSISTENT WITH YOUR TRIPS TO OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES. IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR EA RESPONSIBILITIES. EXPLORATION OF AID POSSIBILITIES IS ONLY A FACTOR. YOU MAY, OF COURSE, NOTE THAT AID OFFICERS WILL PROBABLY VISIT BURMA LATER THIS MONTH TO GATHER DATA AND EXAMINE PROSPECTS. IN ESSENCE, WE ARE ENGAGED IN A PROCESS RATHER THAN A DEADLINE. CHRISTOPHER

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